
Congressman Greg Walden's Oregon Congressional Connection

Your Direct Link to the News and Events in the Nation's Capital

Monday, June 24, 2002

Dear Fellow Oregonian:

Last week significant progress was made on a number of the pressing issues facing Congress this year. On Friday the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which I sit on, approved a proposal to create a new prescription drug benefit under Medicare, one of the highest priorities of millions of seniors in Oregon and across the country. The House also passed a bill to cut down on the amount of paperwork that small businesses have to fill out to comply with federal regulations. I hope you'll take a moment to scroll down and read about these and other exciting developments on Capitol Hill.

In this week's Oregon Congressional Connection I've also included information about a bill I've introduced to spur economic development and cut down on traffic congestion in central Oregon, as well as an update on my efforts to reform the Endangered Species Act by incorporating peer review of ESA scientific data. You'll also find the schedule for House committee hearings and information on the House floor schedule for the coming week. As always, you can find additional information about developments in Congress on my web site at www.walden.house.gov, which I've just updated.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else taking place in Congress and our nation's capital, please e-mail me at greg.walden@mail.house.gov. My staff and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

I hope you find this week's Oregon Congressional Connection informative. Thank you.

God Bless America.

Congressman Greg Walden

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News from Capitol Hill

Prescription drug benefit for seniors under Medicare

We're making real progress in getting a voluntary, affordable prescription drug program in place for seniors under Medicare. After a two-day debate that concluded on Friday morning following an all-night session, my colleagues and I on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce passed a proposal – the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002 (H.R. 4954) – that I'm hopeful will lay the foundation for a comprehensive, effective program to address the prescription drug needs of older Americans. This is something we've needed for a long time in this country to make sure that those who need help paying for life-saving medicines can get help that's affordable and available regardless of where you live.

The Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act – which will be debated in the full House this week – would provide seniors with a prescription drug benefit for as little as \$35 a month, beginning with a \$250 deductible. Seniors would pay 20 percent of their drug costs up to the first \$1,000 and 50 percent of the next \$2,000. The measure also provides catastrophic coverage for seniors when out-of-pocket drug costs reach \$3,700, after which the government would pay 100 percent of drug costs. Medicare beneficiaries who meet the low-income criteria (44% of beneficiaries nationally) will pay less than \$5 per prescription. The bill also guarantees seniors the ability to choose among different health care plans to find what works best for their prescription drug needs.

Roughly 484,000 Oregonians currently receive health care under Medicare. Of these, 169,000 whose income is below 175% of the poverty level will have their cost-sharing expenditures fully subsidized by the federal government. Additionally, 143,000 Oregonians whose income is below 150% of the poverty level will have their benefit premiums fully subsidized.

Our plan will result in a major savings in the costs of these drugs, and it will have a catastrophic cap to ensure that no senior will ever go bankrupt because they have to take medicines. Beyond providing a new prescription drug benefit, H.R. 4954 would also increase incentives for health care providers to serve patients in rural communities by expanding Medicare payments to sole community hospitals. This is especially important in central, southern and eastern Oregon, where many small, rural communities have few options when it comes to health care.

Under the budget resolution we passed in March, which outlines the amount of funds available for “discretionary” government spending, we set aside \$350 billion to provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit. This significant funding level – made at a time of tight budget constraints as a result of the war on terrorism and the economic slowdown – represents the high priority Congress has placed on providing this new benefit for seniors. I’m proud of the work my colleagues and I on the Energy and Commerce Committee have done on this issue, and I’m hopeful our proposal will pass when it comes to the floor this week.

Central Oregon road swap legislation

On June 18, I introduced a bill (H.R. 4953) in the House that is designed to spur economic development and job creation in the City of Prineville, as well as reduce the rampant traffic congestion on Highway 97. The legislation would accomplish these vital goals by granting to Deschutes and Crook counties the right-of-way to West Butte Road, which is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This would provide Prineville with a paved connection to Highway 20, which would steer traffic through Prineville’s industrial district and hopefully attract businesses to the community. In return for control of the road, the counties would be required to transfer the right-of-way of George Millican Road to the BLM.

This legislation will do a great deal to improve Prineville’s economy. Many of central Oregon’s communities have been hit hard by mill closures and the loss of family wage jobs, and economic development is desperately needed. With the unemployment rate in Crook County at 10.6 percent, we simply can’t wait for the bureaucratic delays that would inevitably arise if we tried to accomplish this road swap without federal legislation.

H.R. 4953 also addresses the transportation and infrastructure needs of central Oregon. A paved connection to Highway 20 would have the benefit of reducing traffic congestion along Highway 97, which will benefit residents of Deschutes County and merchants who truck goods along the congested route. A further benefit of the legislation would be reduced travel time to recreational activities in the Ochoco National Forest.

H.R. 4953 is a companion measure to legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Ron Wyden and cosponsored by Senator Gordon Smith. This legislation is also supported by the commissioners of Deschutes and Crooks counties. With bipartisan, bicameral support for this proposal, I’m hopeful we can get our legislation passed and signed into law as quickly as possible.

Small business paperwork reduction legislation

On June 18, the House passed the final version of legislation, entitled the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act (H.R. 327), to reduce the federal paperwork burden for small

businesses employing fewer than 500 workers. I strongly supported this measure, which passed by a unanimous vote.

My wife and I have owned and operated a small business in Oregon for 16 years, and I know firsthand how enormous and needlessly complicated the federal paperwork process is. Small businesses are particularly hard hit by this burden because they lack the funds to absorb the high costs of complying with federal requirements. Moreover, the resources they have to spend to come into compliance drains capital away that could otherwise be used to expand their business and hire new employees. The small business paperwork burden is a ball and chain around the ankle of the nation's economy, and I strongly support the effort to streamline it.

The Office of Management and Budget estimates that the federal paperwork burden on the public is 7.7 billion hours annually at a cost of \$230 billion per year. Despite the requirements of the 1995 Paperwork Reduction Act, which Congress passed to reduce the federal paperwork burden, there have been annual increases in paperwork during each of the last six years – from 1996 to 2001.

In an October 2001 report, the Small Business Administration (SBA) estimated that large firms (with over 500 employees) spend \$4,463 per employee to comply with federal regulatory and paperwork requirements. However, the costs to the smallest businesses (with fewer than 20 employees) is nearly 60 percent greater – \$6,975 per employee.

The Small Business Paperwork Relief Act would amend the original Paperwork Reduction Act (P.L. 104-13) to continue congressional efforts to streamline and reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses. Specifically, the bill would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to publish a list annually on the Internet containing the resources available to assist small businesses in complying with federal regulations. H.R. 327 would also require federal agencies to create a single point of contact for small businesses seeking guidance when filling out federal paperwork and would establish a task force to study the feasibility of further streamlining current reporting requirements. Finally, the measure would require annual reports over the next two years from each agency containing information on enforcement actions taken by the federal government, as well as civil penalties assessed and actions and assessments against small businesses.

Making pension security provisions permanent

As someone who believes that the government should do everything in its power to create an atmosphere that encourages and facilitates individual savings for retirement, I strongly supported the passage of a measure last week to make permanent the pension and individual retirement provisions contained in last year's tax relief bill.

As you may know, Congress passed a comprehensive tax relief package in 2001 – the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act – that included provisions to allow Americans to save more in their IRAs and 401(k)-type plans. The bill also contained

catch-up provisions that let workers aged 50 and older to save even more money. These provisions, known as the Portman-Cardin retirement savings provisions, are especially important for women who have taken time out of their career to raise a family and are now trying to save enough for their own retirement.

However, last year's tax relief law will expire after December 31, 2010 because of a "sunset" provision that was included to comply with Senate procedural rules. Because of this sunset, the Portman-Cardin retirement savings provisions will be fully rescinded on January 1, 2011. If these provisions expire, millions of workers will be forced to save less for their retirement, and it will be more difficult for businesses to start and maintain pension plans.

The Retirement Savings Security Act of 2002 (HR 4931), which passed overwhelmingly last week, was introduced to remove the sunset provision and ensure that these provisions do not expire.

Specifically, H.R. 4931 makes the following provisions from last year's law permanent: Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs):

- The current-law \$2,000 IRA contribution limit (established in 1981) for both traditional and Roth IRAs will be increased to \$5,000 by 2008 and indexed for inflation thereafter;
- Increased Contributions to 401(k) Plans and Other Pensions: The limit on individual contributions to 401(k)-type plans will be increased to \$15,000 by 2006; and the limit on an employer's deduction for contributions to certain types of defined contribution plans will be raised to 25 percent of compensation;
- Catch-up Contributions: Additional "catch-up" contributions for workers age 50 and above will be permitted for 401(k)-type plans and IRAs;
- Faster Vesting and Pension Portability: The vesting requirements for employer matching contributions will be reduced from five to three years. Additionally, pensions will be made portable so workers can more easily roll over retirement plan assets when they change jobs; and
- Regulatory Relief to Encourage Small Business Pension Growth: Pension laws will be modernized and streamlined to encourage small businesses to offer pension plans.

Seventy-six million Baby Boomers are approaching retirement, and many have not saved enough to ensure a comfortable retirement. Moreover, 70 million workers – nearly half of the entire workforce – currently have no pension plan. The retirement savings provisions we passed last year address that problem by streamlining pension laws and reducing the red tape involved in starting a plan. This will encourage more companies – particularly small businesses – to start their own pension programs.

HR 4931 measure passed by a strongly bipartisan vote of 308 to 70.

On the Horizon

House Resources Committee mark-up of Endangered Species Act reform bill

On Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, my colleagues and I on the House Committee on Resources held a two-day hearing on legislation that would require the peer review of science used in the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The measure we were focusing on, entitled the Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2002 (H.R. 4840), includes many of the provisions contained in a bill I introduced in response to the water crisis in the Klamath Basin.

This coming Wednesday, June 26, the House Committee on Resources will hold a mark-up session to formally consider H.R. 4840. The mark-up will take place 7:00 AM (PST). If you're interested in listening to the mark-up, click on the following link:
<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/audio.htm>.

During last week's hearing, a number of my colleagues – many of them representing Western states – provided the Committee with input on the unintended consequences of the ESA and the need to incorporate peer review of ESA science. The hearing also featured testimony by representatives of the federal agencies tasked with overseeing the implementation of the ESA. These included Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and Dr. William Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

When I addressed the committee, I made as forceful a case as I could that the water crisis in the Klamath Basin underscores why peer reviewed science is fundamentally important. Peer review of data is a concept that is widely recognized within the medical and scientific communities, and it's time it is incorporated into the Endangered Species Act. Any time the government undertakes an effort that can have profound effects on people and communities, it should strive to make sure the data it uses is as close to definitive as possible. One of the most effective ways of doing that is to allow other scientists to review the work of government biologists and evaluate whether their data supports the actions they're recommending. The devastation in the Klamath Basin might have been avoided if this bill had been public law two years ago. And while no action we take in Congress can make up for the devastation that was forced on the farmers and ranchers of the Klamath Basin, we have an obligation to ensure that a similar tragedy doesn't occur elsewhere.

Like my bill, H.R. 4840 requires that every proposed listing, de-listing, consultation and recovery effort aimed at protecting endangered species be subject to peer review by a panel of non-biased scientists. Both bills would also expand the current ESA requirement that "the best scientific and commercial data available" be used for listings and other

actions to include new guidelines that require the federal agencies to give greater weight to scientific or commercial data that is empirical or has been field-tested or peer-reviewed. The measures also stipulate that listing actions must be supported by field data on the species in question.

The House legislative calendar for the remainder of the year doesn't leave much room for measures beyond the annual appropriations bills and other high priorities of the House leadership, but I'll do my best to get this measure to the floor for a full vote by my colleagues. We owe it to the American people to reform this important environmental law to make sure that its unintended consequences don't continue to wreak havoc on hard-working people like those in the Klamath Basin.

Committee Hearings – All Times Pacific

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

6:00 AM – House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on "Creating the Department of Homeland Security: Consideration of the Administration's Proposal." For more information regarding this hearing, visit the following link: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

7:00 AM – House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on "The FTC's Franchise Rule: Twenty-Three Years After Its Promulgation." For more information regarding this hearing, visit the following link: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

7:00 AM – House Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources Subcommittee Hearing on "Do We Need an Anti-Drug Media Campaign?" For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/reform>.

7:00 AM – House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations Subcommittee hearing on "DOD Procurement Problems Affecting Readiness in the War Against Terrorism." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/reform>.

8:00 AM – House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution oversight hearing on "The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

11:00 AM – House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations joint hearing on "Fighting Discrimination Against the Disabled and Minorities Through Fair Housing

Enforcement." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link:
<http://financialservices.house.gov>.

11:00 AM – House Science Committee and Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's Science, Technology and Space Subcommittee joint hearing on "Making the Nation Safer: Science and Technology for Countering Terrorism." To listen to this hearing live, click on the following link:
<http://www.house.gov/science/hearings/index.htm>.

Noon – House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures hearing on "Inversion Transactions and Enhancing U.S. Competitiveness." For more information regarding this hearing, click on the following link: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov>.

1:00 PM – House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims and Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security joint hearing on "The Risk to Homeland Security from Identity Fraud and Identity Theft." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

6:30 AM – House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health hearing on H.R. 3645, the Veterans Health-Care Items Procurement Reform and Improvement Act of 2002. For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://veterans.house.gov>.

7:00 AM – House Agriculture Committee full committee hearing to review the President's proposed legislation on creating a Homeland Security Department. Specifically, the Committee will focus on matters relevant to the proposed transfer of the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Plum Island Animal Disease Center of the Department of Agriculture to the new Department of Homeland Security. To listen to this hearing live, click on the following link: <http://agriculture.house.gov>. Go to the "hearings" pull-down menu and click on "live audio."

7:00 AM – House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on The Financial Accounting Standards Board Act. For more information regarding this hearing, visit the following link: <http://energycommerce.house.gov>.

7:00 AM – House Resources Committee full committee markup of H.R. 4840, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to ensure the use of sound science in the implementation of that Act. To listen to this hearing live, visit the following link: <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/audio.htm>.

7:00 AM – House Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations hearing on "The Single Audit

Act: Is it Working?" For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/reform>.

7:15 PM – House International Relations Committee full committee markup of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. To listen to this hearing live, visit the following link: http://www.house.gov/international_relations/fullhear.htm.

7:30 AM – House Armed Services Committee full committee hearing on the President's proposal for the Homeland Security Department and its impact on the Defense Department and defense-related aspects of the Energy Department. Witnesses: Stephen Cambone, principal deputy undersecretary, Policy, Defense Department. For more information regarding this hearing, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/hasc/schedules/>.

8:00 AM – House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee full committee markup of H.R. 4635, the Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act. To listen to this hearing live, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/transportation/>.

11:00 AM – House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Readiness hearing on "Outsourcing: Review of the Commercial Activities Panel Report." For more information regarding this hearing, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/hasc/schedules/>.

11:00 AM – House Government Reform Subcommittee on Civil Service, Census and Agency Organization hearing on "Homeland Security: Should Consular Affairs be Transferred to the new Department of Homeland Security?" For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/reform>.

11:00 AM – House Judiciary Committee full committee hearing on the White House's proposal to create a Homeland Security Department. Witness: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge. For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

11:00 AM – House Ways and Means Committee full committee hearing to examine the proposal to incorporate the U.S. Customs Service and the Department of Homeland Security. For more information regarding this hearing, click on the following link: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov>.

Thursday, June 27, 2002

6:00 AM – House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel hearing to examine the link between force structure and manpower requirements. Witnesses: Gen. Eric Shinseki, chief of staff, U.S. Army; Adm. Vernon Clark, chief, Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; John Jumper, chief of staff, U.S. Air Force; James Jones, Jr., commandant,

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. For more information regarding this hearing, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/hasc/schedules/>.

7:00 AM – House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry hearing on "Roadless Areas in our National Forests." To listen to this hearing live, click on the following link: <http://agriculture.house.gov>. Go to the "hearings" pull down menu and click on "live audio."

7:00 AM – House Government Reform Committee full committee hearing on "The Department of Homeland Security: An Overview of the President's Proposal." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/reform>.

7:00 AM – House Judiciary Committee full committee oversight hearing on "The Revisions to the Attorney General's Investigative Guidelines." Witnesses: Attorney General John Ashcroft. For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

7:00 AM – House International Relations Committee full committee hearing on "Promoting Economic Development in Africa Through Accountability and Good Governance." To listen to this hearing live, visit the following link: http://www.house.gov/international_relations/fullhear.htm.

7:00 AM – House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans oversight hearing on the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, Executive Order 13089 and the condition of coral reefs. To listen to this hearing live, visit the following link: <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/audio.htm>.

7:00 AM – House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit hearing on "Various Approaches to Improving Highway Safety." To listen to this hearing live, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/transportation/>.

7:30 AM – House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee hearing on "Union Reporting and Disclosure: Legislative Reform Proposals." To listen to this hearing live, visit the following link: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/committee/webcast.htm>.

10:00 AM – House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Procurement and Subcommittee on Military Research and Development joint hearing on missile defense. Witnesses: Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary, Defense Department; Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, director, Missile Defense Agency; Thomas Christie, director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense Department. For more information regarding this hearing, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/hasc/schedules/>.

11:00 AM – House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property oversight hearing on "Unpublished Judicial Opinions." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

Noon – House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims oversight hearing on "The Role of Immigration in the Department of Homeland Security." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

Friday, June 28, 2002

5:30 AM – House Armed Services Committee Special Oversight Panel on Terrorism Subcommittee hearing on Navy and Marine Corps initiatives to improve anti- and counter-terrorism operations. For more information regarding this hearing, please click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/hasc/schedules/>.

7:00 AM – House Judiciary Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee hearing on "Administrative Law, Adjudicatory Issues and Privacy Ramifications of Creating a Department of Homeland Security." For more information on this hearing, click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/judiciary>.

On the House Floor – All Times Pacific

On Monday, June 24, the House met at 9:30 AM for morning hour and 11:00 AM for legislative business. A number of noncontroversial bills were considered, including:

- H.R. 3971 – [Providing for an Independent Investigation of Forest Service Firefighter Deaths that are Caused by Wildfire Entrapment or Burnover](#).

On Tuesday, June 25, the House will meet at 7:30 AM for morning hour and noon for legislative business. A number of noncontroversial bills will be considered, including:

- H.R. 4858 – [Improving Access to Physicians in Medically Underserved Areas](#). This bill would improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas by amending the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend authority and increases the number of waivers with respect to international medical graduates. The measure extends the authority of type J visas until 2004 and increases the number of waivers that may be requested by a state from 20 to 30.
- H.R. 4679 – [Lifetime Consequences for Sex Offenders Act of 2002](#). This bill would give federal Judges the authority to require supervision of sex offenders after they leave prison for any number of years, including life.
- H.R. 4623 – [Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002](#). This bill would prohibit making a visual depiction that is a computer-generated image of, or that appears virtually indistinguishable from an image of, a minor engaging in

specified sexually explicit conduct. It prohibits producing, distributing selling, receiving, or purchasing a visual depiction of a minor engaging in such conduct. It also forbids showing a minor obscene material or child pornography or coercing a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct outside of the United States for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct.

- H.R. 4477 – [Sex Tourism Prohibition Improvement Act of 2002](#). This bill prohibits traveling into the United States for the purpose of engaging in an illicit sexual act with a juvenile, traveling outside of the United States to engage in such sexual conduct, or arranging, inducing, procuring, or facilitating such travel.
- H.R. 4070 – [Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002](#). This bill would provide the Social Security Administration with additional tools to curb waste, fraud and abuse. Primarily, the bill would provide new safeguards for the nearly 7 million Social Security and SSI beneficiaries who use a "representative payee" to receive their benefits. It would also clarify the SSA's ability to impose penalties, deny benefits to felons, disallow participation of disqualified attorneys and other reforms.

On Wednesday, June 26 and Thursday, June 27, the House will meet at 7:00 AM for legislative business. On Friday, June 28, the House will meet at 6:00 AM for legislative business. The following legislation will be considered:

- H.R. 4954 – [Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002](#). This bill includes provisions such as a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage for all beneficiaries of the Medicare Program, modernizing and reforming payments and the regulatory structure of the Medicare Program, and increasing funds to rural and small urban hospitals to correct existing inequalities.
- H.R. ____ – [Department of Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2003](#). This bill provides for national defense priorities such as counter-terrorism, missile defense, quality-of-life issues for our military personnel, operation and maintenance, procurement, research and testing programs, and other categories within the Department of Defense.
- H.R. ____ – [Military Construction Appropriations Act for FY 2003](#). This bill makes provisions for items such as hospital and medical facilities, the Chemical Demilitarization Program, the NATO Security Investment Program, Coast Guard and reserve components, new family housing units and improvements to existing units, environmental cleanup efforts, and anti-terrorism and force protection initiatives.

Second District Trivia

This week's question: What renowned Native American chief, who was born in the Wallowa Valley of northeast Oregon, was widely referred to in the contemporary American press as "the Red Napoleon" for his brilliant military tactics during a retreat from Oregon to Idaho in the 1870s?

Bonus questions: What famous words are associated with the chief's surrender to the United States government in 1877? What was the chief's other, less recognized name?

For the answer to this question and to take a crack at past questions, click here:

<http://www.walden.house.gov/trivia/trivia.htm>

For more information on these and other issues, please visit my website at www.walden.house.gov or call my Washington, D.C., office at (202) 225-6730. You can also call my Medford office toll-free at (800) 533-3033. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to dallas.boyd@mail.house.gov. If you'd like to be removed from the "Oregon Congressional Connection" list simply send an email to newsletter-request@or02list.house.gov and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.